

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 02069 311500Z
ACTION USIE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-05 SS-15 SP-02
IGA-02 MMO-01 /040 W
-----130677 311521Z /53
P R 301903Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGELOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3501
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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FOR AMBASSADOR JOHN REINHARDDN DIRECTOR, U.S. INFORMATION
AGENCY, FROM AMBASSADOR ORTIZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, EAID, PCNT, PORC
SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER (PAO) TO EMBASSY
BRIDGETOWN

1. I BELIEVE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING EASTERN
CARIBBEAN, COMPRISING TEN POLITICAL ENTITIES FOR WHICH THIS
MISSION IS RESPONSIBLE, CALL FOR EXPANDED USIS PRESENCE IN
BARBADOS TO COVER ALL OF ISLANDS. WE ARE AT PRESENT FORTU-
NATE TO HAVE OFF-SHORE SERVICES OF MR. DENNIS ASKEY, PUBLIC
AFFAIRS OFFICER (PAO) AT PORT OF SPAIN, BUT THE NEED FOR PUB-
LIC AFFAIRS OFFICER IN BARBADOS ITSELF IS BECOMING INCREA-
SINGLY APPARENT FOR FOLLOWING REASONS.

2. CHIEF REASON IS THAT TWO AND POSSIBLY MORE OF THE FIVE
WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES, NOW DEPENDENT ON BRITAIN FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE, WILL BECOME INDEPENDENT SOON.
DOMINICA IS SCHEDULED FOR INDEPENDENCE IN FEBRUARY 1978.
ST. LUCIA, AND THEN PERHAPS ANTIGUA, SHOULD FOLLOW SHORTLY.
SELF-EVIDENTLY, INDEPENDENCE BRINGS GREATER NEED TO EN-
SURE THAT U.S. VIEWPOINTS ON WORLD AFFAIRS ARE ADEQUATELY
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UNDERSTOOD. NEW MINI-STATES WILL DOUBTLESS RAPIDLY GAIN
MEMBERSHIP IN UN AND ORGANIZATION AMERICAN STATES (OAS).

3. BARBADOS ITSELF NEEDS MORE SUSTAINED ATTENTION IN
PUBLIC DIPLOMACY. THE USIS LOCAL INFORMATION SPECIALIST
IS BESET BY SHIFTING MOUNDS OF CLERICAL DETAILS TO
DISADVANTAGE OF SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAM. DIRECT ASSISTANCE

BY DCM IN PAST HAS HELPED MEET USIS OBJECTIVES REASON-
ABLY WELL ON STOP-GAP BASIS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, BUT THIS IS NOT VIABLE SITUATION.

4. INDEPENDENT STATE OF GRENADA IS IN NEED OF ACCURATE
INFORMATIONAL FLOW AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE. QUESTIONABLE
HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD AND AN ALARMING UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(ESTIMATED 40 PERCENT) LEAVE ISLAND VULNERABLE TO
EXTREMIST PROPAGANDA. DOMINICA ALSO HAS STRONG RADICAL
LEFTIST ELEMENTS WHO LIKELY BECOME MORE ACTIVE WHEN
PRINCIPAL TIES WITH BRITISH SEVERED. ANTIGUA WHERE WE
HAVE CONDUCTED ONLY MEAGER USIS PROGRAM, HOSTS U.S. NAVAL
FACILITY (LIKE BARBADOS) AS WELL AS U.S. AIR FORCE SPACE-
MISSILE TRACKING STATION AND HAS INCIPIENT RADICAL FRINGE
OPPOSITION.

5. SOME ISLANDS HAVE ATTRACTED MAJOR INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES WHICH OFFER OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH MEDIA TO
REACH MANY TOP OFFICIALS FROM THIRD WORLD. GRENADA
RECENTLY HOSTED ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF OAS. SEPTEMBER WILL
SEE MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS AND AN
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE IN BARBADOS.

6. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO BUILD ON GOODWILL STIMU-
LATED BY RECENT VISITS OF HIGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS
TO CARIBBEAN, AMONG THEM MRS. CARTER, SECRETARY VANCE,
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UNDER SECRETARY HABIB, AND AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG. I ALSO
UNDERSTAND THAT USIA INSPECTORS RECOMMENDED AN EXPANDED OF-
FICE HERE, HEADED BY AN FSIO. PAO, PORT OF SPAIN, CONCURS.

7. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE
YOUR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A MORE
EFFECTIVE USIS PRESENCE IN BRIDGETOWN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, AMBASSADORS, COUNTRY INFORMATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRIDGE02069
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770315-0059
Format: TEL
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: AFSP, EAID, PINT, PORG, BB, XL, USIA
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